

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-07 LAB-04  
NSAE-00 SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /037 W  
-----064117 272146Z /66  
P 272119Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE  
TO AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO PRIORITY  
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7374  
USIA WASHDC PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT AU PRINCE 0348

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: EINV, ELAB, HA  
SUBJ: DOMINICAN ALLEGATION THAT US BUSINESS THREATENING TO  
LEAVE HAITI

1. ACCORDING TO FBIS, THE SANTO DOMINGO MILITARY RADIO NETWORK  
CARRIED ON JANUARY 26, 1978, A REPORT THAT NORTH AMERICAN  
BUSINESSMEN HAVE THREATENED TO CLOSE THEIR PLANTS AND LEAVE  
HAITI IF THE MINIMUM WAGE IS RAISED. THE REPORT ALSO STATES  
THAT WORKERS HAVE BEEN PROTESTING IN THE STREETS BECAUSE OF  
LOW WAGES. THE DOMINICAN RADIO REPORT IS UNTRUE.

2. THE EMBASSY KNOWS OF NO "NORTH AMERICAN FIRMS" PLANNING  
TO LEAVE HAITI. THERE AREN'T MANY ANYWAY AND THE FEW  
COMPANIES WITH PLANTS IN HAITI APPEAR TO BE REASONABLY SATIS-  
FIED. THE MANAGERS OF TWO AMERICAN FIRMS, ONE IN TEXTILES  
AND THE OTHER IN ELECTRONICS, REPORT THAT ALTHOUGH LABOR  
PRODUCTIVITY IS GENERALLY LOW, SOME WORKERS OUTPRODUCE AMERICAN  
COUNTERPARTS. HAITI'S MINIMUM WAGE WHICH WAS RAISED BY 29  
PERCENT TO \$1.60 PER DAY IN OCTOBER, REMAINS THE LOWEST  
IN THE CARIBBEAN, AND IS NOT CONSIDERED EXCESSIVE BY HAITIAN  
OR FOREIGN MANUFACTURERS. NO INCREASES ARE ANTICIPATED IN THE  
NEAR FUTURE. THERE HAVE BEEN SOME STRIKES IN THE LAST SIX  
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MONTHS, BUT MOST OF THEM WERE CAUSED BY DISPUTES OVER  
WORKING CONDITIONS, HIRING PRACTICES, LOCAL POLITICS, ETC.  
RATHER THAN WAGES. HAITI'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IS NOT  
QUANTIFIABLE, BUT OBVIOUSLY EXCEEDS 50-60 PERCENT OF THE  
LABOR FORCE AND THERE ARE MORE THAN ENOUGH APPLICANTS FOR ANY  
OPEN JOB AT ANY WAGE.  
JONES

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NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WAGES, FOREIGN INVESTMENTS, ALLEGATIONS, CLOSURE OF OFFICES  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 27 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978PORTA00348  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780041-0689  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** PORT AU PRINCE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780114/aaaaalii.tel  
**Line Count:** 62  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 75ab70df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 jul 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3700947  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DOMINICAN ALLEGATION THAT US BUSINESS THREATENING TO LEAVE HAITI  
**TAGS:** EINV, ELAB, HA, US  
**To:** SANTO DOMINGO  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/75ab70df-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014